United Nations S/2018/258

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 March 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 19 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write in reference to your letter dated 22 February 2018, to which was annexed the letter dated 14 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council, which was circulated as a document of the Council (S/2018/153).

Egypt would like to stress the following:

1. Egypt finds it reprehensible that the Sudan should continue to spread the claims made in the above-mentioned letter of the Permanent Representative. Those accusations are devoid of any truth or credibility. Egypt reiterates what it has stated in all the previous letters from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, the most recent of which were the two letters dated 28 July 2017 (S/2017/648) and 13 November 2017 (S/2017/953). In those two letters, Egypt reaffirmed that it categorically rejects these specious claims. Egypt yet again registers its objection to the reference by the Sudan to what the latter calls "the occupation" by Egypt of the Hala'ib-Shalatin area, and to the assertion that the area contains Sudanese inhabitants who have been subject to violations such as being "detained", "expelled", and "being displaced by Egyptian nationals with a view to Egyptianizing the area".

2. In that connection, Egypt reiterates what it has stated previously, that all the areas north of the 22nd parallel north referred to in the letter of the Permanent Representative of the Sudan are Egyptian under the terms of the 1899 agreement signed between the Government of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and His Excellency the Khedive of Egypt. The inhabitants of those areas are Egyptian citizens.

3. Consequent to the preceding, the Sudanese claim that Egypt is occupying those areas is unacceptable and contrary to fact and logic. Egyptian sovereignty over all the areas north of the 22nd parallel north is firmly established and will never be cut off. Therefore, any talk of "occupation" by Egypt or of applying international humanitarian law to areas north of the 22nd parallel north, which are an integral part of the territory of Egypt, is unacceptable de jure and de facto.

4. All the measures that are being taken by the Egyptian authorities in those areas are in line with actions that are customarily taken by State authorities when fulfilling their responsibilities and exercising their competences. That includes securing the international border between Egypt and Sudan and realizing the development efforts of the State throughout its territory, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution as they are applied throughout national territory and for the benefit of all Egyptian citizens.

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5. As Egypt has stated previously, all the foreigners who were detained (including Sudanese and Syrian citizens and persons of other nationalities) had entered that area by surreptitiously and illegally crossing the international border, and had illegally been mining gold and other minerals without authorization from the competent national authorities. This is a clear violation of the relevant Egyptian laws. The fact that a large number of them have submitted applications to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Cairo for refugee status in Egypt is proof that Sudanese claims that they are residents of the region are false. A citizen cannot apply for refugee status in his country of citizenship. He has to have crossed an international border into another State.

6. Moreover, several of the arrested individuals had documents issued by UNHCR showing that they either had applied for refugee status or had been designated refugees. That shows that they are not inhabitants of that area. They had fled the Sudan and did not wish to go back there because they were afraid of being subjected to oppression by the Sudanese authorities, and they even feared for their lives. Egypt does not wish to disclose the names of persons who infiltrated and are seeking or have obtained refugee status in Egypt, in order to protect their safety. The particulars have been documented by UNHCR in Cairo.

7. It should be pointed out that the rest of the Sudanese detained on charges of infiltration and illegal mining were not inhabitants of the Hala'ib area. It has been established that their places of residence are in various parts of the Sudan, including Khartoum, Darfur and Atbarah. They infiltrated illegally across international borders. Egypt registers its objection to the repeated and systematic infiltration operations along the international boundary between Egypt and the Sudan. Egypt has previously protested the reluctance on the part of the Sudanese authorities to take measures to prevent infiltration and to control the border between the two countries. That reluctance suggests that certain Sudanese parties are working in concert with the infiltrators. That would be a clear violation of the Sudan's international obligations and the principle of good neighbourliness for which the Sudan would bear responsibility in accordance with the provisions of international law that regulate such international responsibility.

8. Egypt calls on the Sudan to take the measures necessary to control the two countries' international border (along the 22nd parallel north) and stem the wave of Sudanese infiltrating into Egyptian territory in violation of the principles of international law. Egypt reserves the right to take all the measures required to protect its interests and nationals in those border areas, in accordance with the Constitution, the law, and legitimate rights guaranteed by international law.

9. Egypt reiterates its rejection of the Sudan's practice of repeatedly submitting to the Security Council letters containing fraudulent allegations accusing Egypt of "occupying" the Hala'ib area and engaging in practices that violate international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations. The letters are intended to establish those fraudulent claims. Egypt stresses that these sorts of repeated letters will bring about no change whatsoever to the legal and historical fact of Egyptian sovereignty over all its territory.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohamed **Idris**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2018/259

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 March 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 23 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith an information bulletin dated 23 March 2018 from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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Annex to the letter dated 23 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (23 March 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the Memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The situation in the de-escalation areas has been assessed as stable.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported 14 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 7 in Damascus, 5 in Ladhiqiyah and 2 in Homs.

The Turkish representative office has reported 11 incidents of gunfire in the following Governorates: 6 in Damascus, 2 in Hama, 2 in Idlib and 1 in Dar'a.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,778 humanitarian operations have been carried out.

The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 2,499.9 tons.

Over the past 24 hours, medical assistance has been provided to 98 residents

In total, medical assistance has been provided to 74,794 residents.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

Over the past 24 hours, 15 ceasefire agreements have been signed with the following populated areas: Manshiyat al-Sabil, Sanamayn, Aliqin, Mankat al-Hatab, Kammunah, Buwaydan, Buraq, Baliyah, Shaqraniyah, Uthman, Kayta, Shaykh Miskin and Mismiyah in Dar'a Governorate, and Umm Batinah and Khalidiyah in Qunaytirah Governorate.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process has increased to 2,452.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.